RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

SUMMER 1987 232 Ogden Avenue – Jersey City, N.J. 07307 – (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

MEETING MINUTES

The May meeting of the RNA was held on the 12th of the month. The main speaker of the evening was Edward Clark, Hudson County Executive. Mr. Clark gave a brief talk on the responsibilities of county government, their projected budget and the progress that has been made in county-run facilities. After a brief question and answer period, Mr. Clark joined our members for refreshments.

Other business taken up at the meeting, was a report on the status of the proposed Pohlman Hall II project (postponed till June 4th meeting of the Board of Adjustment), the result of our flea market, the progress of the Save the Loew's Theatre Campaign, and a group effort to clean up some anti-semitic grafitti in our area.

After the close of business, those present celebrated birthdays of our members that occur between January and June. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. Marie Tuzzo.

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 PM in the Harborview Health Care Facility. The July and August meetings will not be advertised but will be held on the second Tuesday of the respective month as usual. Please join us and add your voice to those of your neighbors in making our community a better place to live.

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

N O T I C E

The regular monthly meetings will take place during the summer months. The July meeting will be held Tuesday July 14th, and the August meeting will be Tuesday August 11th. Both meetings will be conducted at the Harbor View Health Care Center at 7:30pm. Keep this notice handy as a reminder to attend those meetings.

Secretary
Maria E Tuzzo

FLEA MARKET

At this year's Flea Market we had some rain drops which might have kept some people away, but those who did come had a good time, good buys and good food. At the risk of leaving someone out, I would like to express my thanks to the following:
St. Nicholas Church for supplying the tables.

Set up crew - Bob Lewis, P.J., Vito, Rich LaPosta, and Kathy Dellaglio.

RNA table - Kathy Brennan, Kathy Dellaglio and Edith Springer.

Food Table - Gert Bogden, Gert's friend Maria, Randy Sanford for keeping that good hot coffee and all those cakes and cookies coming. Thanks to Bob Lewis for cooking all those hot dogs and for making the gourmet onions.

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CONRAD'S CORNER

The following is an article printin the Jersey Journal on May 12, 1976. Although the subject is the restoration of the historic Hudson County Courthouse, the parallels to the present struggle to save and renovate the Loew's Theatre are unmistakable:

The Hudson County Courthouse may never be restored to the point it can be phased back into use by the county.

Unless federal or state money can be found to subsidize what Supervisor Edward F. Clark Jr. fears will be excessive operating costs, or unless commerical or business use can be found for the 70-year-old building, it may never be used again.

"We aren't going to bear any runaway costs on operating this building," Clark flatly stated today, in answering a question about the building's future.

Clark was questioned by Theodore Conrad about a statement made by Charles R. Tichy, supervisor of historic sites. Tichy was reported as saying to a group at the Newark Museum that "The building is really quiet shaky as to its future. The county really doesn't want it."

Tichy also reportedly said that the only thing that has thus far preserved the building, listed on the state register of historic sites, is the high cost of demolition.

The building, forced into retirement in 1966 with the completion of the adjacent county administration building, is considered by some architectural historians to be one of the finest examples of the American Renaissance style.

It was designed by Jersey City resident Hugh Roberts and was completed in 1906. Because of the architectural and historical significance of the building it was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

In his letter to Clark, Theodore Conrad, president of the Citizens Committee of Hudson County, asked if this could be true "after the wholehearted and overwhelming support of the community to save and rehabilitate the building." He noted the 20,000 signatures on a petition to save the courthouse.

Without directly replying to Conrad's question about Tichy's statement, Clark said he didn't "know of anything they (Conrad and Tichy) have contributed to continue the use of the building" once the renovation is complete.

"We haven't had one solid solution on how that building's going to be operated and whose going to pay for it," Clark said. "There hasn't been forthcoming one solid solution to the continuance of that building once the renovations have been made.

"We respect Mr. Conrad's criticisms but they are constant and they don't offer solutions," Clark continued. "For anybody who wants to deal in theory, that's fine, but we've got to deal in dollars.

I just don't think that thecounty taxpayers should have to accept the costs."

Clark said the county was studying what alternatives are open to the county for the use of the building and should be finished in about six weeks with that examination.

"Are we going to fix it and make it functional? Is it really functional?" Clark asked. "We're going to get the public and the private sector in on this."

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Conrad's Corner
con't. from page 2

Clark estimated it will take $5 million to renovate the building fully "and put it in the kind shape that would really make i worthwhile and make it present Conrad has said it could be d for less.

Clark estimated that operating on the building could run to $250,000 a year. Operating c for the administration buildi were not available.

Clark said there were real pro lems in heating and air condit ing the building, because it h "got rooms that were engineere for the existing aesthetics" w the building was constructed. Conrad has said the building probably wouldn't need air con ditioning.

"They were done with a differe concept from the one they woul use today." Clark explained. "There's a lot of space wasted in those high ceilings. But t you've got to consider functio space as opposed to the kind o beauty you can't duplicate.

"You're dealing with the resto tion of a building and with ar Unfortunately in this economic climate one has a habit of pul against the other." he said.

Clark said the county would examine the restoration of the Essex County Courthouse, which completed recently. The count will also ask the "tax researc people and other people and Wa ington and anyone who has an i terest in it to back up their terest with dollars.

"I don't have to tell you of t fact that we've looked and con tinue to look for solutions," Clark stated. "But somebody's got to come up with the dollar

To date the county has been pledged a total of nearly $750,000 from state and federal funds for restoration work. This does not include another $450,000 the county estimates it has earmarked in federal manpower funds from the Comprehensive Empolyment and Training Act to pay laborers and

NEW DATE: JUNE 4TH

HELP FIGHT THE DEVELOPERS

POHLMAN'S HALL II PROJECT (PARKING LOT BETWEEN 140 OGDEN AND 154 OGDEN AVENUE): DEVELOPERS WANT TO BUILD A 7-STORY, 42 UNIT CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE.

IT'S TOO TALL! TOO MANY APARTMENTS!

MORE CARS PARKED AND DRIVING THROUGH OUR STREETS!!!!!!!!!

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS

AND

STOP THIS OVERDEVELOPMENT

CITY HALL / COUNCIL CHAMBERS
280 GROVE STREET
7:00 PM
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
JUNE 4, 1987

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

R.S. Gerber – Kwok, Kathy Brennan, Carin Lewis, Maria Tuzzo, Edith Springer, Raquel Sweeny
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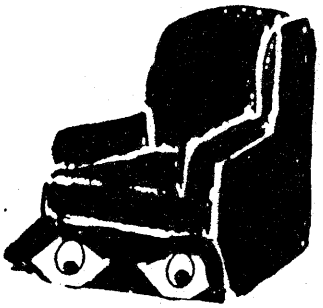

Under the Chair

UNDER THE CHAIR

If you've been in Riverview Park within the last few weeks, you are probably wondering what's going on at the pavilion. The Dept. of Public Works is fixing our historic landmark. Working with Director Ron Buonocore, Joan Earls of Leisure Activities, and Bob Pollara of Facility Maintenance, RNA has arranged for the repair of the pavilion's shingled roof, wood ceiling and brickwork. This work is long overdue and RNA appreciates the efforts of all involved in this project. Work is scheduled to be completed in June.

North of the pavilion, there are other additions to the Park: two new flowering cherry trees. DPW's Forestry Division planted the trees on May 19th. Forester Nick Polanin says plans for the Park include one more tree planting and then pruning and clean-up of the Park's other trees.

At our last two meetings, RNA has had guest speakers from the two tickets running in the June 2nd Democratic primary for county and state elections: Bernard Kenny, running for Assembly in the 33rd District with the Democrats '87 and Ed Clark, the present county executive, seeking reelection with the Regular Democrats. We appreciate the time both men took to come and talk to our group about the issues. RNA continues to maintain its nonpolitical position in this race but we hope the best people win: people that will be the most effective in providing services and improving the quality of life for all of Hudson County.

Dean Howell, one of our current vice-chairpersons, has resigned from his position in RNA as of May 13, 1987. Dean feels that he is unable to fully devote himself to the job he was elected to because of professional reasons which conflict with his RNA responsibilities. He has assured us that he will remain an active member of our group. RNA regrets Dean's decision because we have always valued his participation and opinions.

Ted Conrad just celebrated his 77th birthday on May 19th. To add to his already busy schedule, Ted was recently elected President of the newly reorganized Jersey City Preservation and Restoration Association. This group is a merger of the 50 year old J.C. Museum Association and the original P.A.R.A. The first issue the group will take up will be the saving and renovation of the Loew's Theatre.

Our wishes for a speedy recovery to our neighbors, Evelyn Berndt and Bea Higgins. Both ladies are in the hospital and RNA hopes they will soon be up and about.

This summer is going to be a long hot one. Let's all make an effort to watch our neighborhood for any possible problems that occur. If necessary, call the Police to stop any crime or mysterious occurrence - that especially goes for our parks and street corners. Schools will be out and kids will be kids - but that doesn't excuse any illegal activities, such as drinking, drug-taking or playing loud music. Remember we must take a firm position and let others know that we are concerned and protective about our own community. The City can only do its part to stop crime if we as citizens are alert and willing to notify them of the problem.

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JERSEY CITY INCINERATOR AUTHORITY

The Jersey City Incinerator Authority has assumed the recycling responsibilities for the City of Jersey City. Your cooperation and participation will help make this program an environmentally and financially successful cooperative effort.

Curbside collection of newspaper for recycling will be conducted in the Jersey City Heights area. Newspaper only!! (Please place magazines in with the household garbage.)

Prior to collection, please secure newspaper with rope or cord in bundles not to exceed twenty-four (24) inches in length, height, and width. Place bundles at the curb no earlier than 7:00 PM on the days preceeding collection. This is the same schedule as refuse collection conducted in your neighborhood.

If your newspaper bundles are not picked up on the scheduled day, call 432-4645. Thank you for your time and effort in making this a viable program.

RECYCLING EXPANDS!
DON'T THROW IT AWAY...
THROW IT OUR WAY!!!

The following are the dates for the recycling pickups:

Monday - June 8
Monday - June 22
Monday - July 13
Monday - July 27
Monday - August 10
Monday - August 24
Monday - September 14
Monday - September 28
Monday - October 12
Monday - October 26
Monday - November 9
Monday - November 23
Monday - December 14
Monday - December 28

LETTERS...WE GET LETTERS

The following is a letter written by Janet Moore, secretary of the Community Relations Council, in response to the City's plans for the two water reservoirs, No. #2 and #3 in the Heights. From our understanding, H.E.D. is looking at the possibility of selling reservoir #3, located on Central Ave., to developers to pay for the upgrading of Reservoir #2, known as the Troy St. Reservoir, to state Clean Water standards. H.E.D. is projecting a figure of $6 million for the necessary renovations. Reservoir #2 provides water for the Downtown section of Jersey City. The Heights community is concerned about the use of this land for large scale development which they consider unnecessary and detrimental to their neighborhoods:

Dear H.E.D.,

We were delighted to have you speak at our meeting on May 4th. The reservoir property, which was the subject that you were invited to discuss is of interest to all of us and we are keenly interested in being informed of any and all developments on this project.

We are the area of the City that pays the heaviest property taxes and we are concerned by the lack of interest that City depts. have in resolving our problems. The reservoir property does not provide any water for the Heights area but we must trouble ourselves with the problem and we will be taxed to pay for it.

The property in question is in Ward C, which has no park land and of course, our first thought would be to preserve it as it exists and allow it to be used for recreation. Simple solutions are usually the best. (Ward C is still awaiting the resolution of the requested property on Ogden Avenue and Cuneo Place for a mini-park, through the use of CDBG

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The P/D Committee showed up in force at City Hall on May 7th for the zoning variance hearing concerning the proposed 7-story, 42 unit condo development to be built on the parking lot next to Pohlman's Hall - only to see the case postponed AGAIN! This was the second time RNA had come to the Board of Adjustment meeting to fight this unnecessary project and nobody had notified us about a postponement. The developers, Frank Latinas and Fred Rosen, knew ahead of time that two members of the Board would not be there that evening and used their right to be heard before a full board in asking for this second postponement. Our P/D Committee expressed our objections to the Board about this suspicious action but they were unable to change the Board's decision.

The new hearing date is June 4th at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. RNA is determined not to let these postponements wear us down and we are preparing to show up at the Board of Adjustment to make our case.

To recap our position on this project: RNA welcomes and supports all new development provided it conforms and is appropriate to the established character of the neighborhood. RNA considers this project too high and too dense. A building on this site would be acceptable under the following conditions:

1) height - limit the height to the level of the eaves of Pohlman's Hall,

2) parking - eliminate the underground parking level,

3) density - the number of units should correspond to the number of parking spaces (ratio of one to one),

4) lot area - confine development to the flat area existing at street level (eliminate any development that extends over the Palisades cliffs), and

5) building facade - create a solid facade at ground level to eliminate the appearance of a building on stilts.

Randy Sanford

Community Relations
con't. from page 5

funds to replace Tumulty Park which was sold by the City. Please consider this a request for an update on that property also.)

You stated that a blight study and redevelopment plan are the next steps to be taken by your dept. I'm sure you will agree that we have the right to be completely informed of this process.

You stated that bonding was not feasible - why not? - we need to know more.

You stated that Green Acres funds are almost dried up - the ballot this November contains a provision for the granting of more money for this fund - it will probably pass - why not apply for funding of this most worthy project?

The Denville land sale money must be used on projects that concern water - Wow! That's perfect for this project - let's look into it.

As you can see we are aware of so many possibilities that we cannot understand your pessimistic conclusions about this matter. Therefore, we feel you need us to help you in looking into this project more objectively and we hereby propose that an ad-hoc committee be formed that would include City representatives and residents of this area - as soon as possible. We have given ourselves a time frame on this matter. If we do not hear anything further on this suggestion by June 30th, we will proceed further.

We are distributing petitions to the block associations effected and we will forward them to you.

We eagerly await your reply. Please don't let another year pass before we hear from you because we are impressed with the urgency of this matter.

Community Relations Council

May 8, 1987

Under the Chair
con't. from page 4

This is our last newsletter till the fall. Remember RNA will continue to meet the second Tuesday of every month (July 14, August 11, and September 8) at the Harbor View Health Care Facility. If there are any problems or items that you need to discuss, please contact Vito Brunetti (798-0493) or Bob Lewis (420-1490), or come to our meetings.

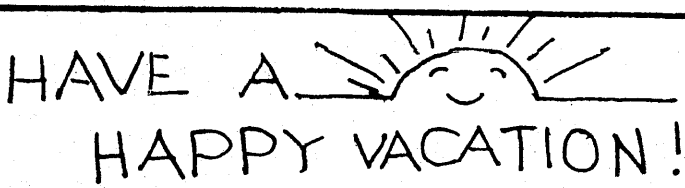
Having said all that - let's all have a wonderful summer, whether we spend it in our own neighborhood or somewhere else. ENJOY!

N O T I C E

The Newsletter will not be published during July and August. The next issue will be issued in September. Have a great summer and we will see you in the fall.

The Staff

Does God seem far away? Who do you think moved?



MOTTO OF THE MONTH

A SMILE IS THE SAME.....

IN EVERY LANGUAGE.

submitted by M. Tresca

Guess Who We Grew Up To Be

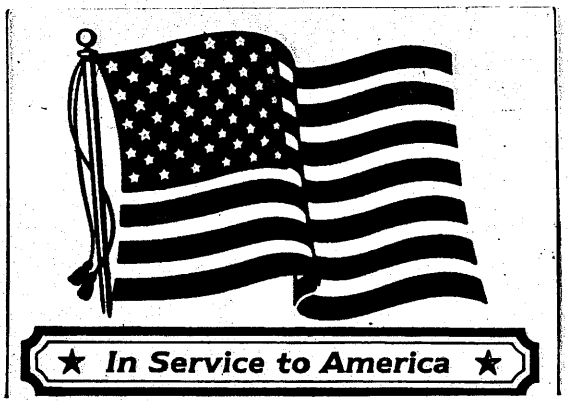
Can you guess who this young sailor is. He is a highly visable community member and hard driving R.N.A. member. (For the answer see page 7)

Did you guess the identity of the May Guess Who picture? That sweet school girl was none other than Anne Hart, active member of the community and of the RNA.

THE SNAKE THAT
POISONS EVERYBODY

It topples government, wrecks marriages, ruins careers, busts reputations, causes heartaches, nightmares, indigestion, spawns suspicion, generates grief, dispatches innocent people to cry in their pilllows. Even its name hisses. It's called GOSSIP. Neighborhood gossip, shop gossip, party gossip. It makes headlines and heartaches. Before you repeat a story, ask yourself: Is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary? If not - shut up.

FLAG DAY
JUNE 14



INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 4th

Some people call me Old Glory, other people call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your Flag, The Flag of the United States of America..... Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you, because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago, people lined both sides of the street to watch the parade and naturally I was leading every parade, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that the hand was directly over his heart, remember?

And you, I remember you, standing there straight as little soldiers. You didn't have hats, but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little brothers and sisters, saluting with their hands over their hearts, and waving me all around.

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have few more stars since you were a kid. A lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.
But now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets and I may get a small glance and then you look away. Then I see the children running around and shouting...they don't seem to know who I am...I saw one man take off his hat then look around, he didn't see anybody else with theirs off, so he quickly put his back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have you forgotton what I stand for? And where I've been? Anzio, Guadal-Canal, Korea, Vietnam. Take a look at the Memorial Honor Rolls sometimes, of those who never came back to keep this Republic free...One Nation Under God.....when you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, stand straight, place your hand over your heart.... and I'll salute you, by waving back....and I'll know that....

YOU REMEMBERED!

PARKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Another summer in Riverview Park means loud radios, broken glass, dog feces, drug sales and vandalism. Despite the efforts of a handful of people, the problems remain. Our elected officials haven't helped. Whatever happened to the Riverview Park Restoration Project? The sign is still in the Park but nothing has been done. Then there are the other signs that tell you it's against the law - to drink, to not pick up after your dog, and to play ball after 10:00 PM. Unfortunately these signs do not enforce the laws. A few of our members attend meetings at the Community Relations Council to get the Police to respond to our needs - but we have to make numerous calls at times in order to get them to respond at all.

Our greatest friend has been the Department of Public Works. Joan Earls from Leisure Activities has helped us obtain trash baskets, made the park workers do a better job of cleaning the Park and has helped in our needs during our recent flea market. DPW's Facility Maintenance is currently repairing the roof and ceiling of the pavilion.

If you're as fed up as we are, there are things you can do. While walking through the Park, pick up some discarded bottles and place them in the nearest trash receptacle before they get broken. If you are walking your dog, remember to be a good neighbor and pick up after it. If you see someone in the Park breaking the law, call the Police at 547-5477 or KIS-KISS.(Do not dial 911 unless something serious or life-threatening is happening.) If the Police do not respond, call back and note when the calls were made. Last but not least, attend RNA meetings and get involved. If you're not a member - become one. The stronger our organization, the more we can do to make the Heights a better place for us all.

Chuck Hollowell

Flea Market con't. from page 1

The A&P for donating the coffee, sugar, milk and paper goods.

Take down and garbage crew - Vito Burnetti, Bob Lewis, Michael Ipsaro and Randy Sanford.

Ted Conrad for the use of his van.

Traffic Engineering and Captain Galvin of the North District for their cooperation in helping us close the street and securing for us the horses that were necessary.

To those who I have forgotten, I say thanks.

I could not close this article without giving my special thanks to Joan Earls, Director of Parks, for without her help and cooperation the flea market would not have happened.

See you all again next spring.

Carin Lewis
Chairman, Flea Market Committee

THANK YOU, MR. "G"

Once again Mr. G., manager of the A & P, located on the corner of Palisade Avenue and Ferry St., was a generous donor to the RNA's Flea Market (May 2, 1987). He supplied us with coffee, milk, sugar, cutlery and all necessary paper goods. This is the third year he has supported our Flea Market.

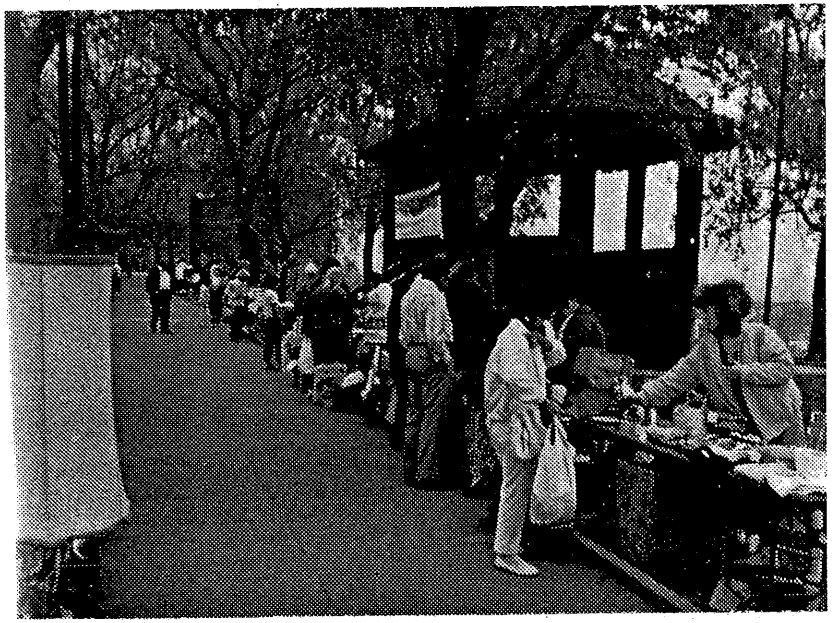
We wish to extend our thanks not only to Mr. G but to the A & P company for their generosity.

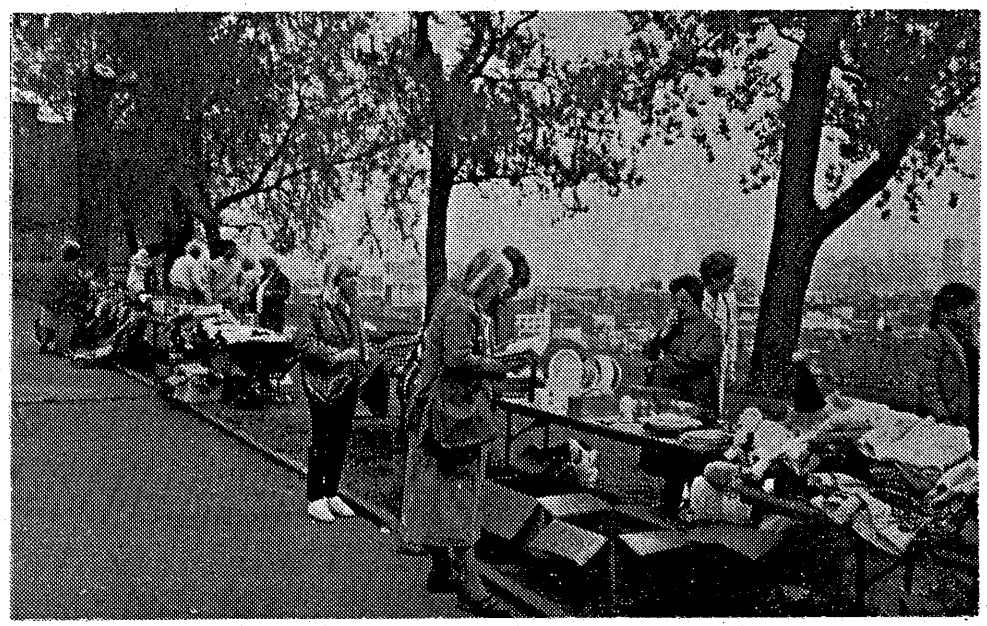
Marie (Dee) Ipsaro

Answer to May Guess Who Photo

Answer to the Guess Who Photo on page 7. Vito Brunetti.

A PICTORIAL VIEW OF OUR THIRD FLEA MARKET





FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

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RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairman

Bob Lewis
Vice-Chairman

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Rich LaPosta
Treasurer

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

COMMITTEES:

COMMUNITY AWARENESS:
Edith Springer

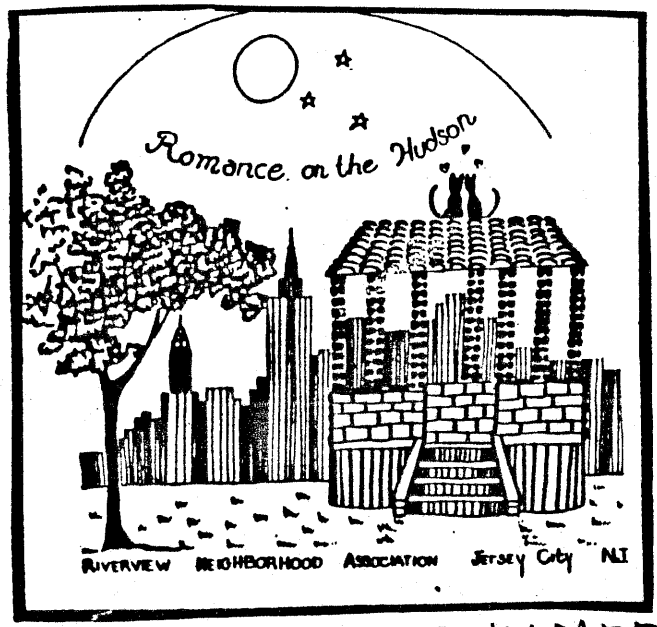
PARKS & RECREATION:
Chuck Hollowell

SANITATION:
Anne Hart

TRAFFIC:
Michael Cioffi

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:
Randy Sanford

CRIME:
George Graul



HAVE A GOOD SUMMER
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER